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In refutation of the general charges of inaccuracy, permit me to point out that practically every important statement in the book is supported by citations of source authorities, the foot-notes containing over 1300 such references.

LUCILE EAVES.

*The Steel Workers.* By JOHN A. FITCH. The Pittsburgh Survey. Russell Sage Foundation. (New York: Charities Publication Committee. 1910. Pp. xiii, 353. \$1.50.)

The steel workers with whom this book deals are the skilled and semi-skilled workers of the Pittsburgh District. These "real steel workers," as the author calls them, have been made the chief object of study, to the exclusion of the unskilled laborers who make up sixty per cent of the working force of the industry, because the former alone have acquired skill special to steel manufacture, and are for the most part racially distinct from the others. The purpose of the volume is to set forth what manner of men these steel workers are, the character of the work they are engaged in, the conditions under which they give their labor, the causes that have produced these conditions, and their political and social effects in the lives of the workers.

The book is written frankly from the view point of the workmen. The writer's conclusions that the men are required to work too many hours per week, and that the intensity of their work has been raised to too high a point while their earnings have at least not been increased, have become widely known through the publication in outline of much of the material of this volume in *Charities and the Commons* in January and March, 1909. The book is evidently intended for the "average citizen"; the style is very informal and the book is excellently illustrated. The 240 pages of text are followed by 108 pages of appendices which contain some documents of rather particular interest.

In the first part of the volume the writer brings forward much interesting information on the organization of the working force for purposes of production. Four chapters are devoted to a helpful description of the various mechanical processes in each of the several branches of steel making, the relative number of workers engaged in each, the character of the work performed by each group, and the extent and nature of the work done by machinery. The three chapters on unionism in the steel industry which make

up the second part of the book constitute a distinct advance over the accounts hitherto available of the history, character, and policies of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. A brief chronicle of the rise of the constituent organizations and their amalgamation in 1876 is followed by a discussion of the objects which appealed most strongly to the membership and the internal weaknesses which handicapped the Association severely in its contests with employers. The account of the decisive struggle at Homestead in 1892 is prefaced by an examination of the status of unionism in the several steel mills of the Pittsburgh District and the trials of strength between the employers and the workmen prior to 1892 which makes it easier to grasp the causes and significance of that famous conflict.

Of the chapters in Part III dealing with changes in working conditions since 1892, that on hours of labor is by far the most definite. The author makes an enlightening analysis of the number of hours per day and the amount of Sunday work normally required of the men in the various departments, and gives his views as to the feasibility of reducing the length of the working week. He has not been able to support his discussion of wage changes and "speeding up" by an equally valuable marshalling of facts. The last four chapters are not of the same rank as those which precede; the writer is not dealing with tangible working conditions, and these chapters include much that is based on personal appraisements. In the first two of these chapters, which are included in Part III, he describes the policies which he believes the employers have adopted for the purpose of discouraging, and even repressing, all efforts toward collective action for better terms of employment on the part of the workers. The final chapters are given over to impressions of the prevailing social and political conditions in the mill towns as these are affected by the labor conditions and the policies of the employers, including the pressure the largest employer is stated to exert in political affairs. There is considerable repetition in these chapters of matter presented earlier in the volume.

The strongly subjective tone of the book and the unevenness of the evidence presented in support of its conclusions prevent its acceptance as an authoritative work on the matters of which it treats. Yet the volume is interesting and suggestive, and contains many valuable facts as to the history of labor and present condi-

tions of employment in the steel industry in its most important center.

D. A. McCABE.

*Princeton University.*

*A Year in a Coal Mine.* By JOSEPH HUSBAND. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1911. Pp. 171.)

Mr. Husband presents a direct and uncolored record of his personal experiences and observations as an unskilled miner. The experiences recorded are undertaken neither as an economic investigation nor as a journalistic adventure. The writer tells his story so apparently oblivious to the economic problems suggested as to forbid suspicion of bias, either sentimental or doctrinal.

The opening paragraph adequately explains the motives of the author in sentencing himself to a year's hard labor underground; and likewise evidences the representative character of his field of observation:

"Ten days after my graduation from Harvard I took my place as an unskilled workman in one of the largest of the great soft-coal mines that lie in the Middle West. It was with no thought of writing my experiences that I chose my occupation, but with the intention of learning by actual work the 'operating end' of the great industry, in the hope that such practical knowledge as I should acquire would fit me to follow the business successfully. That this mine was operated in direct opposition to the local organization of union labor and had won considerable notoriety by successfully mining coal in spite of the most active hostility, gave an added interest to the work. The physical conditions of the mine were the most perfect that modern engineering has devised: the 'workings' were entirely electrified; the latest inventions in coal-mining machinery were everywhere employed, and every precaution for the safety of the men was followed beyond the letter of the law."

Such publications add a highly desirable element to the literature of inductive economics; and Mr. Husband has rendered a signal service in thus characterizing the extraordinary industrial hazards and contingent social liabilities of coal production under the most favorable conditions.

RALPH H. HESS.

*University of Wisconsin.*

*Législation Ouvrière.* By E. COHENDY and M. GRIGAUT. (Paris: Ch. Delagrave. 1910. Pp. 170. 2.50 fr.)

Here is a most business-like statement, without prologue or epi-